

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently amended)** A vector for the oral administration of at least one pharmacologically active substance, that allows said pharmacologically active substance to pass from the intestinal lumen to the blood, optionally via the interstitial fluid, without any substantial denaturation or degradation of said pharmacologically active substance, ~~the said~~ vector comprising:

a matrix that is essentially hydrophilic in nature, the outer surface of which is modified with one or more chemical species that give said vector an essentially lipophilic nature, and said matrix containing one or more of said pharmacologically active substanceessubstance,

wherein said vector has gastric protection that contains said vector in a lipophilic compound.

2. **(Original)** The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is biocompatible and bioassimilable or metabolizable at a pH of between approximately 6.5 and 7.5, ideally between approximately 7.2 and 7.3.

3. (Previously presented) The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the chemical species are detached from the matrix when the vector passes from the intestinal lumen to the blood, optionally via the interstitial fluid.

4. (Previously presented) The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the main constituent of the hydrophilic matrix is selected from polylactates, poly(lactate-co-glycolate)s, polymers or copolymers based on hyaluronic acid, on chitosan, on starch, on dextran and the like, and also copolymers thereof and mixtures thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the chemical species are selected from paraffins, lecithins, amino acids, fatty acids in general and also derivatives thereof (esters and the like, for example stearates, glycerides), benzyls, inositol phosphates (IPs), glycerol phosphates, lipophilic polymers, and the like, and also mixtures thereof.

6. (Previously presented) The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the chemical species are attached to the hydrophilic matrix via weak bonds.

7. **(Original)** The vector as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the weak bonds are bonds of electrostatic and/or ionic nature and/or of hydrogen bond type.
8. **(Previously presented)** The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that its largest dimension is between approximately 10 nm and approximately 10 μ m, preferably between approximately 100 nm and approximately 500 nm, more preferably between approximately 200 nm and approximately 300 nm.
9. **(Original)** The vector as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that it is in the form of spheres having a diameter of between approximately 10 nm and approximately 10 μ m, preferably between approximately 100 nm and approximately 500 nm, for example between approximately 200 nm and approximately 300 nm.
10. **(Previously presented)** The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a matrix in the form of a gel containing said active substance(s) or else a mixture of active substances.
11. **(Previously presented)** The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a matrix in the form of a

capsule containing said active substance(s) or else a mixture of active substances.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) The vector as claimed in claim-~~12~~ 1, for which the gastric protection is solid in nature, in the form of a gel, or is in the form of a coating or of a capsule.

14. (Original) The vector as claimed in claim 13, for which the gastric protection is in the form of a capsule.

15. (Currently amended) The vector as claimed in claim-~~12~~ 1, characterized in that the gastric protection comprises constituents selected from alginates, such as calcium alginate, carboxymethylcellulose and the like, and also mixtures thereof.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) The vector as claimed in claim-~~16~~ 1, characterized in that the lipophilic compound is selected from the group consisting of organic oils, ~~or~~ mineral oils, plant oils, ~~or~~ animal oils, and mixtures thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The vector as claimed in claim 1, consisting of a plurality of hydrophilic capsules modified with chemical species that give them a lipophilic nature, said capsules being dispersed in a lipophilic medium that is itself contained in a capsule that acts as gastric protection.

19. (Previously presented) The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the active substance is selected from substances capable of being denatured or degraded upon direct oral administration.

20. (Previously presented) The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the active substance is peptide or protein in nature.

21. (Previously presented) The vector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the active substance is insulin.

22. (Previously presented) A gastroresistant carrier comprising one or more vectors as claimed in claim 1.

23. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one vector as defined in claim 1 or a gastroresistant carrier comprising at least one said vector.

24. (Previously presented) Method of preparing a medicament that is active when administered orally in human or veterinary therapy and that has curative and/or preventive properties and/or properties that allow diagnosis, which comprises using an effective amount of a vector as claimed in claim 1 with an appropriate excipient.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~Method~~method as claimed in claim 24, for producing a pharmaceutical product intended for the treatment of ~~Type 1~~ diabetes.

26. (Currently amended) The ~~Method~~method as claimed in claim 24, for producing a pharmaceutical product intended for oral immunization.

27. (New) A method for treating diabetes, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the vector as claimed in claim 1, in association with an appropriate excipient, wherein the pharmaceutically active substance is insulin.

28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the diabetes is Type 1 diabetes.

29. **(New)** The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the diabetes is Type 1 diabetes.